



Appl. No. 09/974,511  
Amdt dated: August 5, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of March 6, 2003

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
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Serial No. : 09/974,511  
Applicant(s): Masahiro KAWAKAMI et al.  
Filed : October 10, 2001  
For : SMELTING REDUCTION METHOD  
Art Unit : 1742  
Examiner : Melvyn J. Andrews  
Docket No. : 00447CD/HG  
Confirmation No. : 8922  
Customer No.: 01933

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*Laraine Dobies*  
Laraine Dobies

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

S I R :

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Responsive to the Office Action mailed March 6, 2003 (Paper No. 9), the term for response to which is extended two months by a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME filed concomitantly herewith to expire on August 6, 2003, please amend the application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.